

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00918 071814Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 DHA-02 MCT-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /096 W

-----080141Z 101250 /66

R 071558Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6206

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0918

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF, SHUM

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON JUSTICE

1. SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT BEGAN WIDE-RANGING AND OFTEN HEATED DEBATE ON JUSTICE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 6. DEBATE WAS CHARACTERIZED BY SHARP CLASHES BETWEEN JUSTICE MINISTER JIMMY KRUGER AND OPPOSITION MEMBERS, NOTABLY HELEN SUZMAN (PRP), AND HARLAND BELL AND HYMIE MILLER (UP). SPEECHES REVEALED NUMBER OF DETAILS ON IMPRISONMENT AND BANNINGS.

2. HELEN SUZMAN GAVE SPEECH MOST CRITICAL OF SAG, ACCUSING KRUGER OF "HAVING A FIELD DAY" AND OF BANNING PEOPLE "LEFT, RIGHT, AND CENTER." SHE PARTICULARLY CRITICIZED DETENTIONS WITHOUT CHARGES UNDER TERRORISM ACT, AND QUOTED INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS' ESTIMATE THAT 471 PERSONS HAD BEEN HELD BY END OF MARCH 1977. OF THOSE STILL IN DETENTION (NUMBER UNKNOWN), SHE SAID, 33 HAVE BEEN HELD FOR OVER A YEAR, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CAPE T 00918 071814Z

29 FOR 9 TO 12 MONTHS, AND 115 FOR SIX TO NINE MONTHS.

SUZMAN CITED CASE OF TIMBANI PHANTSI, WHO WAS HELD FOR 513 DAYS AND THEN RELEASED WITHOUT CHARGES. SHE ALSO CONTRADICTED KRUGER STATEMENT THAT TERRORISM ACT NOT USED ON CHILDREN UNDER 16, CITING CASE OF 86 SCHOOL PUPILS FROM KAGISO, KRUGERSDORP, DETAINED UNDER LEGISLATION. OF THESE, 53 WERE UNDER 18, 16 WERE 15-YEAR OLDS, 5 WERE 14 YEAR-OLDS,

5 WERE 13 YEAR-OLDS, ONE WAS TWELVE AND ONE WAS TEN. ALL HAVE SINCE BEEN RELEASED. SUZMAN SAID "SCORES" OF CHILDREN HAD BEEN DETAINED UNDER SECTION SIX OF ACT, KEPT IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT FOR UP TO FIVE MONTHS, AND EVENTUALLY CHARGED WITH MINOR OFFENSES. APPROXIMATELY 80 PERCENT OF THOSE WITH LEGAL REPRESENTATION HAD BEEN ACQUITTED. ON BANNINGS, SUZMAN SAID THAT AT LAST COUNT THERE WERE 162 PEOPLE ON LIST OF BANNED PERSONS, OF WHOM 136 WERE STILL IN SOUTH AFRICA. THESE INCLUDED 29 PERSONS CONNECTED WITH BLACK LABOR ORGANIZATIONS BANNED SINCE LAST NOVEMBER. HYMIE MILLER MADE MANY OF SAME POINTS IN LESS CONTENTIOUS MANNER, AND ADDED ISSUE OF DEATHS IN DETENTION, SAYING THAT INQUEST RESULTS IN CASES OF SEVEN OUT OF TWELVE SECURITY DETAINEE DEATHS SINCE JANUARY HAD NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC. HARLAND BELL CALLED FOR COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO CONDITIONS OF DETAINEES AND SUICIDES IN PRISONS.

3. KRUGER REJECTED OPPOSITION CRITICISM AND GAVE FAMILIAR DEFENSE OF NEED FOR STERN ACTION IN FACT OF THREAT TO SECURITY OF STATE. DEFENDING ARRESTS OF JUVENILES, HE SAID THAT BLACKS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR SOME OF "MOST ATROCIOUS DEEDS IMAGINABLE" DURING LAST YEAR'S UNREST. OTHER NATIONAL PARTY SPEAKERS SUPPORTED KRUGER. H.J.D. VAN DER WALT CALLED FOR SECURITY LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD MAKE "ECONOMIC SABOTAGE" A CRIME AGAINST STATE SECURITY, AND SAID THE "LIBERALISTS" AS WELL AS COMMUNISTS SHOULD BE REGARDED AS A THREAT TO STATE SECURITY. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT A SINGLE ACT SHOULD

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CAPE T 00918 071814Z

BE DRAFTED TO CONSOLIDATE ALL EXISTING SECURITY LEGISLATION, A PROPOSAL FOR WHICH KRUGER LATER EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT. BOWDLER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEBATES, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, ARRESTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 07-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977CAPET00918  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770203-0417  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** CAPE TOWN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770684/aaaacvrn.tel  
**Line Count:** 100  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 39a7bf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2253479  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON JUSTICE  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, SHUM, SF, (KRUGER, JIMMY), (SUZMAN, HELEN), (BELL, HARLAND), (MILLER, HYMIE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/39a7bf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009